

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were originally pending in the Application. Applicants have amended claims 16-17 as set forth above and have canceled claims 1-15 and 19 without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by any of Applicants' claim amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lastinger U.S. Patent 6,104,311. However, the Examiner has failed to provide specific grounds for rejection of claims 16-18. Therefore Applicants assume that claims 16-18 are allowable subject matter. Accordingly claims 16 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of base claim 11 and all intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 16 and 17 as amended are allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass claims 16 and 17 to issue.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 as amended, which is believed to be allowable for the reasons stated above. Claim 18 therefore inherits all of the limitations of claim 17 as amended, and is accordingly believed to be allowable for the same reasons that claim 17 is allowable. Applicants submit that claim 18 is allowable, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass claim 18 to issue. Since Applicants have canceled claims 1-15 without prejudice, the Examiner's rejections of claims 13-15 are moot.

The Examiner has rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner's rejection states that it is not understood what is generated by the limitation "means for generating." Claim 22 depends from claim 20, which provides a clear antecedent basis for "means for generating" by reciting the limitation "means for generating at least one resonant frequency to represent an object population in said region of interest." Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112. The Examiner has failed to provide any other grounds for rejection of claims 20-22. Therefore claims 20-22 are believed to be allowable subject matter. Since claims 21 and 22 are dependent from claim 20, they inherit all of the limitations of claim 20. Therefore, since claim 20 is believed to be allowable, claims 21 and 22 should be allowable for the same reasons as claim 20. Applicants accordingly respectfully request the Examiner to pass claims 20-22 to issue.

Applicants have submitted new claims 23-50. The new claims are supported by the specification and do not introduce any new matter. New independent claims 23, 33, 38, and 42 include limitations not discussed or suggested in the cited art, and are therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 24-32, 34-37, 39-41, and 43-50 are dependent either directly or indirectly from respective independent claims 23, 33, 38, or 42, and accordingly inherit all of the limitations of the respective independent claims. Thus claims 24-32, 34-37, 39-41, and 43-50 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons that respective independent claims 23, 33, and 38 are allowable, and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass new claims 23-50 to issue.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims 16-18 and 20-50 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes that a fee is due with this Response. Please refer to the Transmittal for payment of this fee.

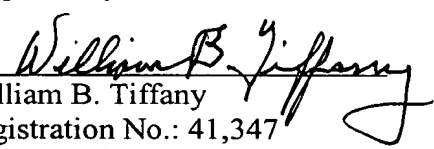
Dated: February 18, 2004

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Dated: February 18, 2004

Signature: 
John Pallivathukal

Respectfully submitted,

By 
William B. Tiffany
Registration No.: 41,347
Attorney for Applicant

(214) 855-8204